THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
Fantastic Four
IND.
MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢
22 JAN.
CELEBRATE WITH US THE RETURN OF THE FIRST SUPER-VILLAIN THE F.F. EVER FACED! SEE HOW THE MOLE MAN IS PRESENTED NOW, IN THE NEW, MUCH-TALKED ABOUT MARVEL MANNER!
PROUDEST ACHIEVEMENT OF THE MIGHTY MARVEL GROUP!
THAT'S IT, THING! COME JUST A LITTLE FURTHER!
HOLD IT! THAT WALL IS RADIO-ACTIVE! IF YOU TOUCH IT, YOU'RE DOOMED!
IN A MYSTERIOUS DUNGEON, FAR BELOW EARTH'S SURFACE, A FEARFUL FATE AWAITS THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT IT!
YOU'VE READ ABOUT IT!

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ALL-TRANSISTOR *WRIST WATCH TYPE* RADIO

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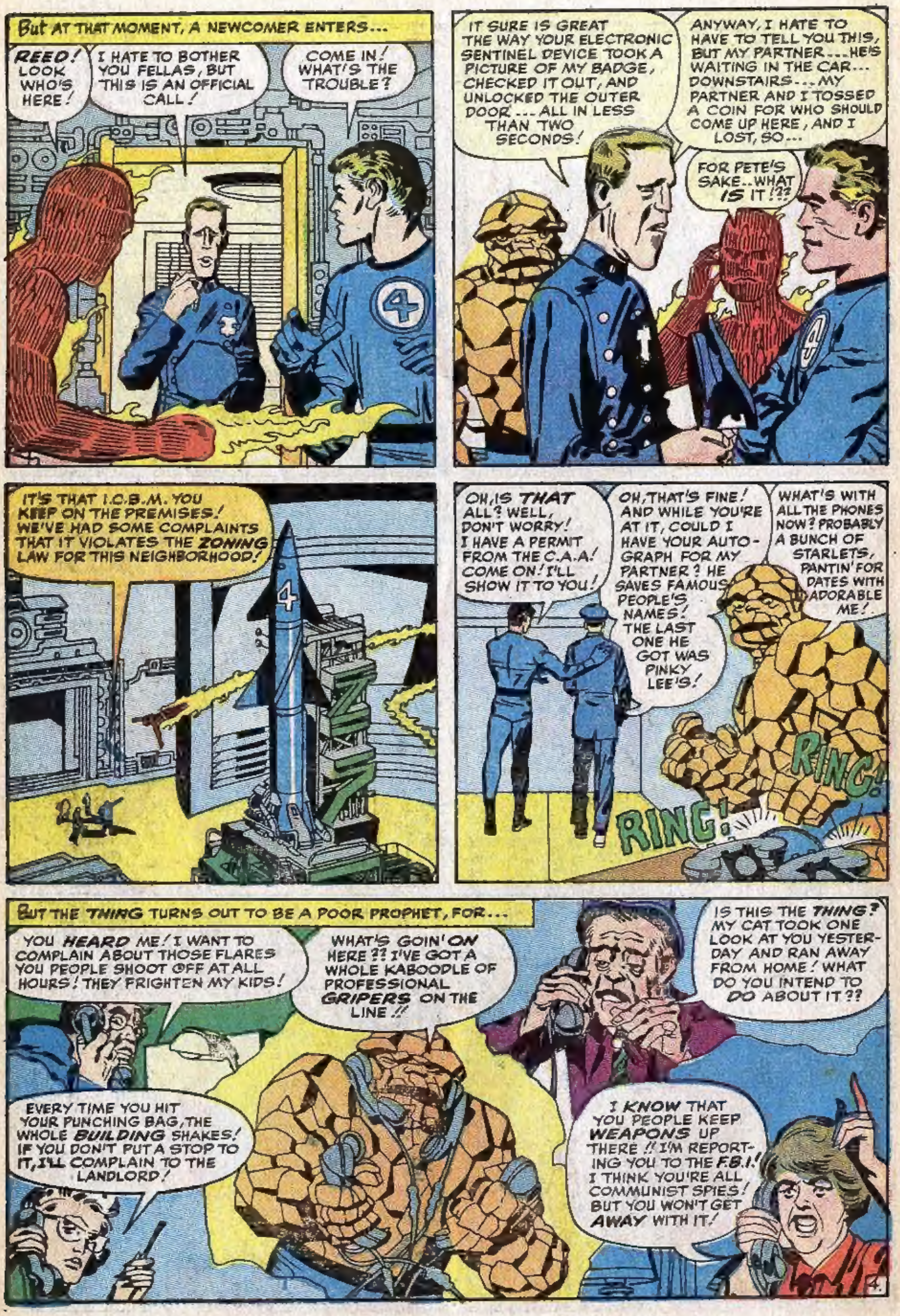
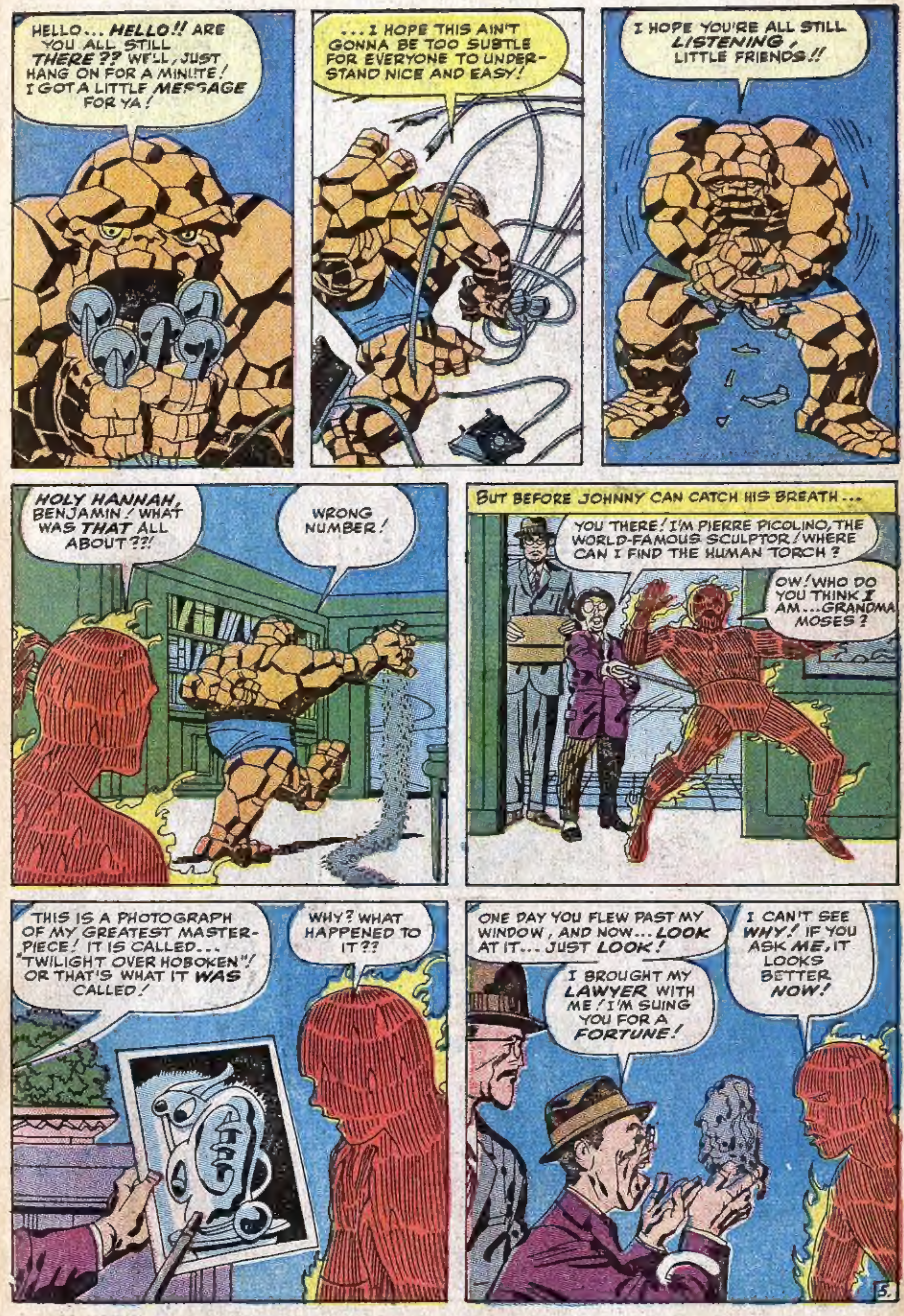
THE FABULOUS FANTASTIC FOUR PRESENT:
"The Return Of The MOLE MAN!"
WRITTEN BY: STAN LEE
DRAWN BY: JACK KIRBY
INKED BY: G. BELL
LETTERED BY: S. ROSEN
THE FIRST FOE THE F.F. EVER FACED AS A TEAM!
YOU KNOW, REED, THIS MEASURING DEVICE TO TEST MY INVISIBILITY WOULD MAKE THE KOOKIEST HAT!
HEY, BENNY BOY! HERE'S SOMETHING YOU COULDN'T DO IF YOU HAD TWICE AS MANY MUSCLES!
NUTS! I'M BORED! WHY DO WE HAVE TO HANG AROUND JUST 'CAUSE OUR LITTLE OL' MAD SCIENTIST WANTS TO PLAY FOOTSIES WITH SUE?
JUST AS I THOUGHT! YOU HAVE GREATER POWERS OF INVISIBILITY THAN YOU SUSPECT, SUE! THE PROBLEM IS... HOW DO YOU LEARN TO CONTROL THOSE POWERS??

OKAY, HON! THAT'S IT FOR TODAY! I'VE GOT TO STUDY THE RESULTS OF THESE TESTS NOW!
I DON'T FEEL ANY DIFFERENT... JUST A LITTLE TIRED!
HEY! WHAT'S WITH THIS NUTTY FLOOR?
HERE, GOOD BIG BUDDY! IF YOU'RE SO BORED, YOU CAN KEEP BUSY HOPPING AROUND WHILE I HEAT UP YOUR TOOTSIES FOR YOU!
LOOK OUT, YOU CLUMSY GALOOT! KEEP OFF MY PET CORN!
YOU GRINNIN' MEATHEAD! WHEN ARE YOU GONNA GROW UP AND...
HALP!! I'M BURNIN' UP! I GOT A HOT FOOT ON THE BACK OF MY TUMMY!
JUST WAIT, TORCHY BOY! WHEN I GET DONE WITH YOU, YOU'LL BE THE BLUE CROSS POSTER BOY OF THE YEAR!
DON'T GO 'WAY, YOU ANIMATED MATCH STICK! I'M GONNA GIVE YA A LITTLE SHOWER... OF SOME NICE COOL, COMFY CHEMICAL FOAM!
KNOW SOMETHING, SUNNY JIM? IF I HAD YOUR DISPO-SITION, I'D TRADE MYSELF IN FOR A NEW MODEL!
JUST CALL ME SMOKEY THE BEAR, HOT STUFF! HEY! WHAT THE...??
LOOK OUT! YOU ALMOST HIT ME WITH THAT AWFUL STUFF!
SUE! YOU'VE DONE IT! YOU CREATED A SHIELD OF INVISIBLE ENERGY!
2.

WELL, I'LL BE HANGED...!!
PROBABLY, SON... PROBABLY!
THE RADIATION FROM MY NUCLEAR MEASURING DEVICE MUST HAVE INCREASED YOUR POWER, SUE! BUT YOUR SHIELD IS STILL TOO THIN!
TRY TO CREATE A STRONGER ONE, HON! A THICKER SHIELD OF INVISIBLE ENERGY! CONCENTRATE! THAT'S RIGHT!! YOU'RE GETTING IT!!
OH, REED... THIS IS WONDERFUL! YOUR THEORY WAS RIGHT! MY INVISIBILITY IS A FORM OF ENERGY, AND ONCE I LEARN TO CONTROL IT, I CAN TURN IT INTO A PROTECTIVE SCREEN!
LET'S TEST IT NOW! TRY TO BREAK SUE'S INVISIBLE SHIELD, BEN! GO ON... TRY!
AW, THIS IS KID STUFF!
STEP ASIDE, SUSIE GIRL!
OWW!
YOU DENTED IT, BUT IT HELD! THIS MEANS SUE'S INVISIBILITY REPRESENTS A GREAT SOURCE OF UNTAPPED POWER!!
OKAY, BIG SISTER.. STEP ASIDE! I'M GONNA SHOW OL' BENJAMIN WHAT I CAN DO AGAINST THAT SHIELD!
HEY! IT'S STRONGER THAN I THOUGHT! LOOK HOW IT'S RESISTING MY FLAME!
INCREASE YOUR FLAME, TORCH!
AIN'T YOU EVEN GOT SENSE ENOUGH TO BE EMBARRASSED, JUNIOR?
OKAY... STAND BACK! THERE! I'M THROUGH! BUT... I'VE GOT TO STOP NOW... IT'S TOO EXHAUSTING!
THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING, SUE! I SUSPECT THERE ARE STILL OTHER THINGS THAT CAN BE DONE WITH YOUR POWER OF INVISIBILITY! AND WE'RE GOING TO FIND OUT WHAT THEY ARE!
3


But at that moment, a newcomer enters...
REED! LOOK WHO'S HERE!
I HATE TO BOTHER YOU FELLAS, BUT THIS IS AN OFFICIAL CALL!
COME IN! WHAT'S THE TROUBLE?
IT SURE IS GREAT THE WAY YOUR ELECTRONIC SENTINEL DEVICE TOOK A PICTURE OF MY BADGE, CHECKED IT OUT, AND UNLOCKED THE OUTER DOOR ... ALL IN LESS THAN TWO SECONDS!
ANYWAY, I HATE TO HAVE TO TELL YOU THIS, BUT MY PARTNER ... HE'S WAITING IN THE CAR... DOWNSTAIRS ... MY PARTNER AND I TOSSED A COIN FOR WHO SHOULD COME UP HERE, AND I LOST, SO...
FOR PETE'S SAKE.. WHAT IS IT!??
IT'S THAT I.C.B.M. YOU KEEP ON THE PREMISES! WE'VE HAD SOME COMPLAINTS THAT IT VIOLATES THE ZONING LAW FOR THIS NEIGHBORHOOD!
OH, IS THAT ALL? WELL, DON'T WORRY! I HAVE A PERMIT FROM THE C.A.A! COME ON! I'LL SHOW IT TO YOU!
OH, THAT'S FINE! AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, COULD I HAVE YOUR AUTO-GRAPH FOR MY PARTNER? HE SAVES FAMOUS PEOPLE'S NAMES! THE LAST ONE HE GOT WAS PINKY LEE'S!
WHAT'S WITH ALL THE PHONES NOW? PROBABLY A BUNCH OF STARLETS, PANTIN' FOR DATES WITH ADORABLE ME!
RING!
RING!
BUT THE THING TURNS OUT TO BE A POOR PROPHET, FOR...
YOU HEARD ME! I WANT TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THOSE FLARES YOU PEOPLE SHOOT OFF AT ALL HOURS! THEY FRIGHTEN MY KIDS!
WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE?? I'VE GOT A WHOLE KABOODLE OF PROFESSIONAL GRIPERS ON THE LINE!!
IS THIS THE THING? MY CAT TOOK ONE LOOK AT YOU YESTER-DAY AND RAN AWAY FROM HOME! WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO ABOUT IT??
EVERY TIME YOU HIT YOUR PUNCHING BAG, THE WHOLE BUILDING SHAKES! IF YOU DON'T PUT A STOP TO IT, I'LL COMPLAIN TO THE LANDLORD!
I KNOW THAT YOU PEOPLE KEEP WEAPONS UP THERE!! I'M REPORT-ING YOU TO THE F.B.I.! I THINK YOU'RE ALL COMMUNIST SPIES! BUT YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH IT!
4


HELLO... HELLO!! ARE YOU ALL STILL THERE?? WE'LL, JUST HANG ON FOR A MINUTE! I GOT A LITTLE MESSAGE FOR YA!
...I HOPE THIS AIN'T GONNA BE TOO SUBTLE FOR EVERYONE TO UNDERSTAND NICE AND EASY!
I HOPE YOU'RE ALL STILL LISTENING, LITTLE FRIENDS!!
HOLY HANNAH, BENJAMIN! WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT??!
WRONG NUMBER!
BUT BEFORE JOHNNY CAN CATCH HIS BREATH...
YOU THERE! I'M PIERRE PICOLINO, THE WORLD-FAMOUS SCULPTOR! WHERE CAN I FIND THE HUMAN TORCH?
OW! WHO DO YOU THINK I AM...GRANDMA MOSES?
THIS IS A PHOTOGRAPH OF MY GREATEST MASTERPIECE! IT IS CALLED... "TWILIGHT OVER HOBOKEN"! OR THAT'S WHAT IT WAS CALLED!
WHY? WHAT HAPPENED TO IT??
ONE DAY YOU FLEW PAST MY WINDOW, AND NOW... LOOK AT IT... JUST LOOK!
I BROUGHT MY LAWYER WITH ME! I'M SUING YOU FOR A FORTUNE!
I CAN'T SEE WHY! IF YOU ASK ME, IT LOOKS BETTER NOW!
5.

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

New Amazing Invention—"MAGIC ART REPRODUCER"

DRAW ANY PERSON *IN ONE MINUTE*

NO TALENT! NO LESSONS!

Anyone Can Draw With This Amazing New Invention—Instantly!

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Just send name and address. Pay postman on delivery $1.98 plus postage. Or send only $1.98 with order and we pay postage. You must be convinced that you can draw anything like an artist, or return merchandise after 10-day trial and your money will be refunded.

FREE! **"Simple Secrets of Art Tricks of the Trade"** This valuable illustrated guide is yours FREE with order of "Magic Art Reproducer." Easy ABC art tricks that anyone can follow on different techniques, effects, proportions, perspectives, shading, color, animated cartoons, human figures to use with "Magic Art Reproducer" for added touches to your drawings.

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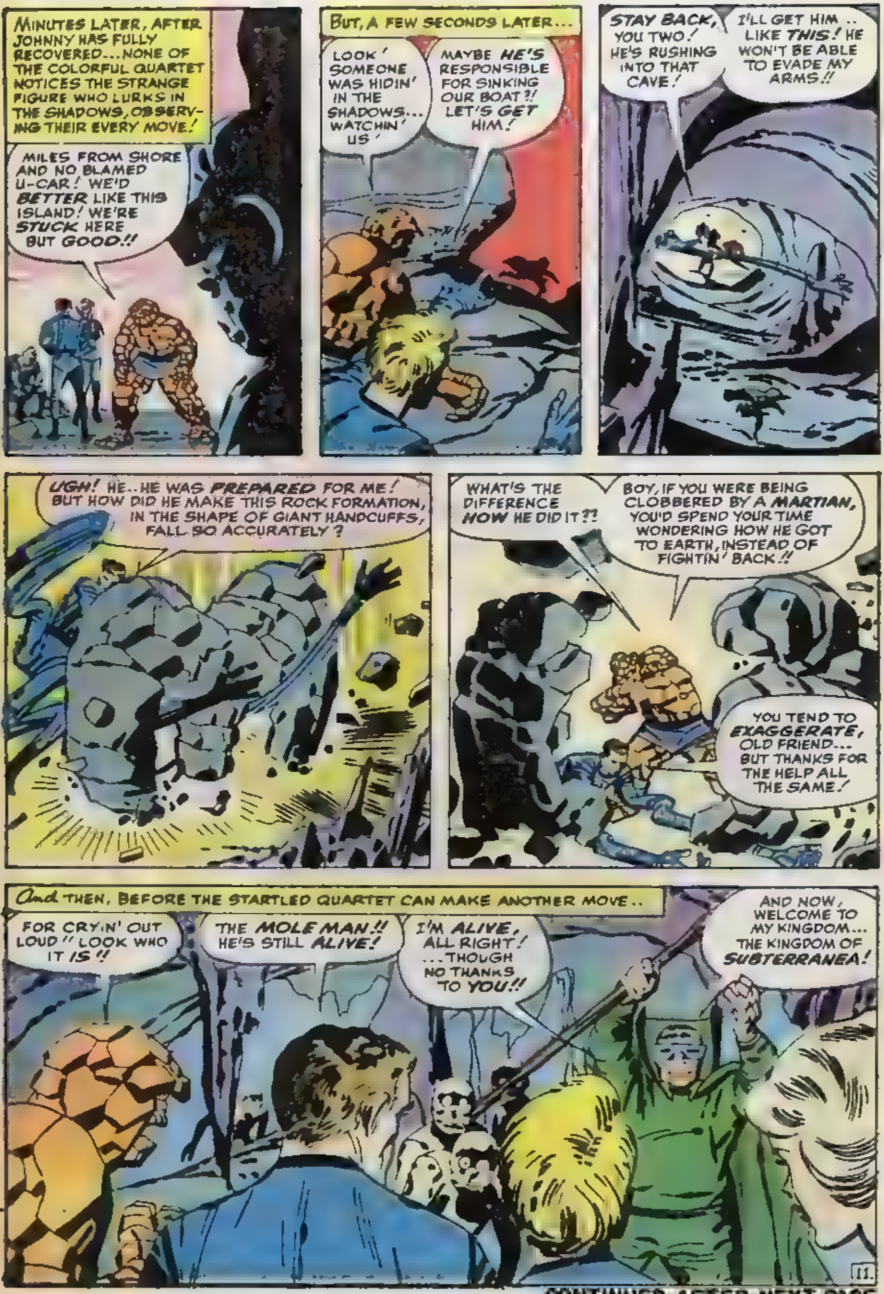
10 DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE!

KNOW SOMETHING, SUE? YOU USED TO WORRY BECAUSE YOU FELT YOU DIDN'T CONTRIBUTE ENOUGH TO OUR LITTLE TEAM! WELL, I NOW SUSPECT YOU'RE ABOUT TO BECOME THE STAR MEMBER!
LET'S TEST MY NEW POWERS SOME MORE! I LOVE IT!
NOW WHERE DID SHE GO?
I CAN DIRECT MY INVISIBILITY AT ONLY ONE THING AT A TIME! IF I MAKE SOMETHING ELSE INVISIBLE, THEN I TURN VISIBLE! AND...
AW, HAVE A HEART, BABY! WE'VE ALREADY BEEN THROUGH ALL THAT! YOU'LL HAVE ME SAYIN' IT IN MY SLEEP!
RRRRINGG!
RRRRR!
HOLD IT, SUE! THERE'S THE PHONE AGAIN! NOW WHAT?
I'LL PRACTICE ON BEN IN THE MEAN-TIME! HOW'S THIS?
GREAT, SIS! NOW, HOW MUCH'LL YOU TAKE TO KEEP HIM THAT WAY?
HEY! THIS IS GREAT! NOW I WON'T HAVE TO SHAVE!
LOOK, MRS. FROBUSH! I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GOT OUR NUMBER, BUT HONEST... THIS ISN'T SAM'S DELICAT-ESSEN!!
LOOK, REED! I MADE BEN INVISIBLE, JUST AS EASY AS PIE!
UH-OH! MORE VISITORS! NO WONDER! ...YOU LEFT OUR ALARM SYSTEM OFF AND THE DOORS UNLOCKED WHEN YOU WALKED OUR BRASS-BUTTONED FRIEND TO THE ELEVATOR!
YOU'RE RIGHT, BEN! IT WAS MIGHTY CARE-LESS OF ME!
YOUNG MAN, WE REPRESENT THE WOMEN'S CANASTA AND MAH JONG SOCIETY! AND WE WANT YOU TO STOP YOUR DANGEROUS EXPERIMENTS!
IF ANYTHING EVER GOES WRONG, YOU'RE LIABLE TO MAKE THIS WHOLE NEIGHBORHOOD RADIO-ACTIVE!
AND RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF OUR ANNUAL MAH JONG TOURNAMENT! FOR SHAME!
I TELL YOU WHAT, LADIES! WHY DON'T YOU WRITE ME A LETTER?
7.

ONE SIDE, REEDY BOY! IF THOSE GALS WANNA COMPLAIN TO SOMEONE, LET 'EM COMPLAIN TO ME!!
THOSE ARE ALL PIECES OF EQUIPMENT I USE FOR MY EXPERIMENTS WITH ROBOTS! BUT WHO JOINED THEM TOGETHER LIKE THAT??
OH! THAT VOICE! I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN!
RUN FOR THE HILLS, GIRLS! TODAY'S MEETING IS ADJOURNED!
SAY, THIS BIT ABOUT BEING INVISIBLE AIN'T BAD, CHUM! A GUY COULD GET TO ENJOY IT!
SURE, BEN, SURE! BUT RIGHT NOW I'VE GOT OTHER THINGS ON MY MIND!
I'D LIKE TO FIND A NEW PLACE FOR US TO CONDUCT OUR LARGER EXPERIMENTS!
SOMEPLACE LIKE THIS! I GOT THIS PAMPHLET IN THE MAIL TODAY! IT TELLS ABOUT A SMALL DESERTED ISLAND FOR SALE, OFF THE COAST OF NEW JERSEY! I WONDER...??
AWW! YOU'RE MAKIN' ME TURN VISIBLE AGAIN!
DON'T BE GREEDY, BEN! GIVE SOME-ONE ELSE A CHANCE!
SUE, BEN, JOHNNY! LISTEN...! THIS ISLAND SOUNDS PERFECT! IT'S FOR SALE... CHEAP!
...IT'S NOT TOO FAR AWAY, AND IT'S BIG ENOUGH FOR US TO STORE OUR I.C.B.M. AND SOME OTHER EQUIPMENT WHICH PEOPLE HERE HAVE BEEN COMPLAINING ABOUT!
OKAY! OKAY! WHAT ARE WE WAITIN' FOR?? LET'S GO BUY US AN ISLAND!
WITHOUT WASTING A MINUTE, THE FABULOUS FOUR-SOME RUSH TO THEIR NEW AMPHIBIOUS U-CAR*... AND HEAD FOR AN ADVENTURE AS STRANGE AS ANY THEY HAVE EVER KNOWN!!!
JUST THINK! IF WE BUY AN ISLAND, WE'LL OWN A PIECE OF GEOGRAPHY!
YEP! THAT'LL REALLY PUT US ON THE MAP!
SOME DAY, SCHOOL-KIDS MAY HAVE TO STUDY WHAT OUR PRINCIPAL IMPORTS AND EXPORTS ARE! GOSH, THAT'LL MAKE 'EM HATE US!
* FIRST INTRODUCED IN FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL, #1!
6

ACCORDING TO OUR RADAR THERE'S LAND DEAD AHEAD!
IT'S THE *ISLAND!* HEY, NO *WONDER* IT'S FOR SALE CHEAP!!
WHAT DO YOU *MEAN,* BEN?
THE BLAMED THING IS SURROUNDED BY AN IMPENETRABLE *BARRIER REEF!* HOW DO WE GET *ONTO* IT??
HERE, I'LL CUT THE MOTORS, AND TAKE A LOOK!
TORCH SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT THE REEF LITTLE PAL! AS FOR THE *ISLAND,* IT DOESN'T LOOK BAD!
FLAME ON!
HERE I GO, KIDDIES!
WITHIN SECONDS, THE HUMAN TORCH MELTS DOWN A SECTION OF THE REEF MAKING A CAUSEWAY WHICH HIS PARTNERS CAN PASS OVER!
OKAY PARTNERS! SOON AS SHE COOLS DOWN, SHE'S ALL YOURS!
GOOD WORK, JOHNNY! HERE, SUE---I'LL LEND YOU A HAND!
YEEESH!! I THINK I STEPPED ON A JELLY-FISH!!
QUICK! SOMEONE GET THE BIG BRAVE *THING* A BAND-AID!
9

SAY, WHO DESIGNED THIS PLACE, ANYWAY? ...ALFRED HITCHCOCK !!
I'LL ADMIT IT IS EERIE-LOOKING... BUT AT LEAST WE'LL HAVE SOME PRIVACY HERE!
WE SURE WILL!! NOBODY ELSE WOULD BE CAUGHT DEAD IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!
REED! I SEEM TO SENSE THE PRESENCE OF OTHERS!
WELL, THE ISLAND IS SUPPOSED TO BE DESERTED, BUT...
NEVER MIND THAT!! LOOK! OUR U-CAR!! SOMETHING'S HAPPENIN' TO IT!! IT'S SINKING!
WITHOUT A MOMENT'S HESITATION, LIKE A BLAZING STREAK, THE TORCH ZOOMS TOWARDS THE SINKING CRAFT!
IT'S NOT SINKING BY ITSELF!
SOMETHING'S UNDER THE U-CAR ...SOMETHING'S PULLING IT DOWN!!
BUT IN AN EFFORT TO SEE BENEATH THE MURKY SURF, THE TORCH CARELESSLY HOVERS TOO CLOSE TO THE SURFACE, AND ..
I'VE WARNED HIM TO BE CAREFUL OF THE STEAM CAUSED BY HIM GETTING TOO CLOSE TO WATER! THE VAPORS ARE SMOTHERING HIM!
EASY, LITTLE PAL!! I'VE GOT YOU!!
GOOD WORK, BEN! YOU WERE STEADY AS A ROCK
I AIN'T LOOKIN' FOR MEDALS, FELLA! JUST DON'T DROP THE KID! I'VE GOTTEN KINDA USED TO THE PEST!!
10



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Are you willing to take a chance? We won't tell you what you get, but because you're willing to gamble, we'll give you more than your money's worth
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This amazing radio kit contains all the components to construct a powerful highly efficient instrument.
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Apply this to the television screen and it appears that the glass is cracked.
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Now you can see how fast you're riding with this speedometer for only 75¢. You can time yourself for racing, sports, distance. Just fasten it to your handle-bar and go
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You can talk back and forth between houses, from room to room, and from secret hiding places, because it's portable - no electric wires - no batteries.
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Just light one and watch the column of thick white smoke rise to the ceiling, mushrooming into a dense cloud just like an A Bomb
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I enclose in full payment. Same guarantee
Send C.O.D. I will pay postman on delivery plus postage
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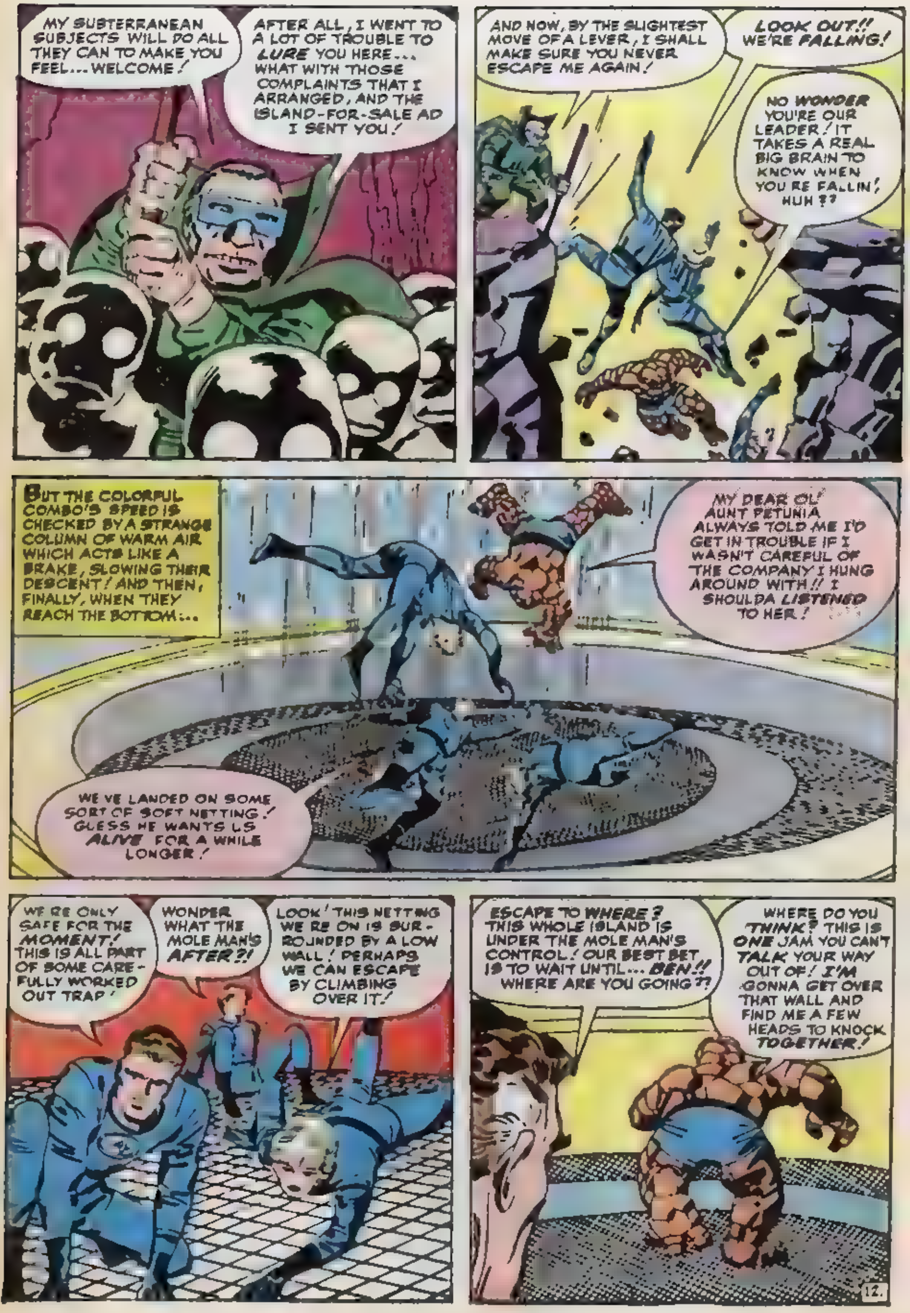
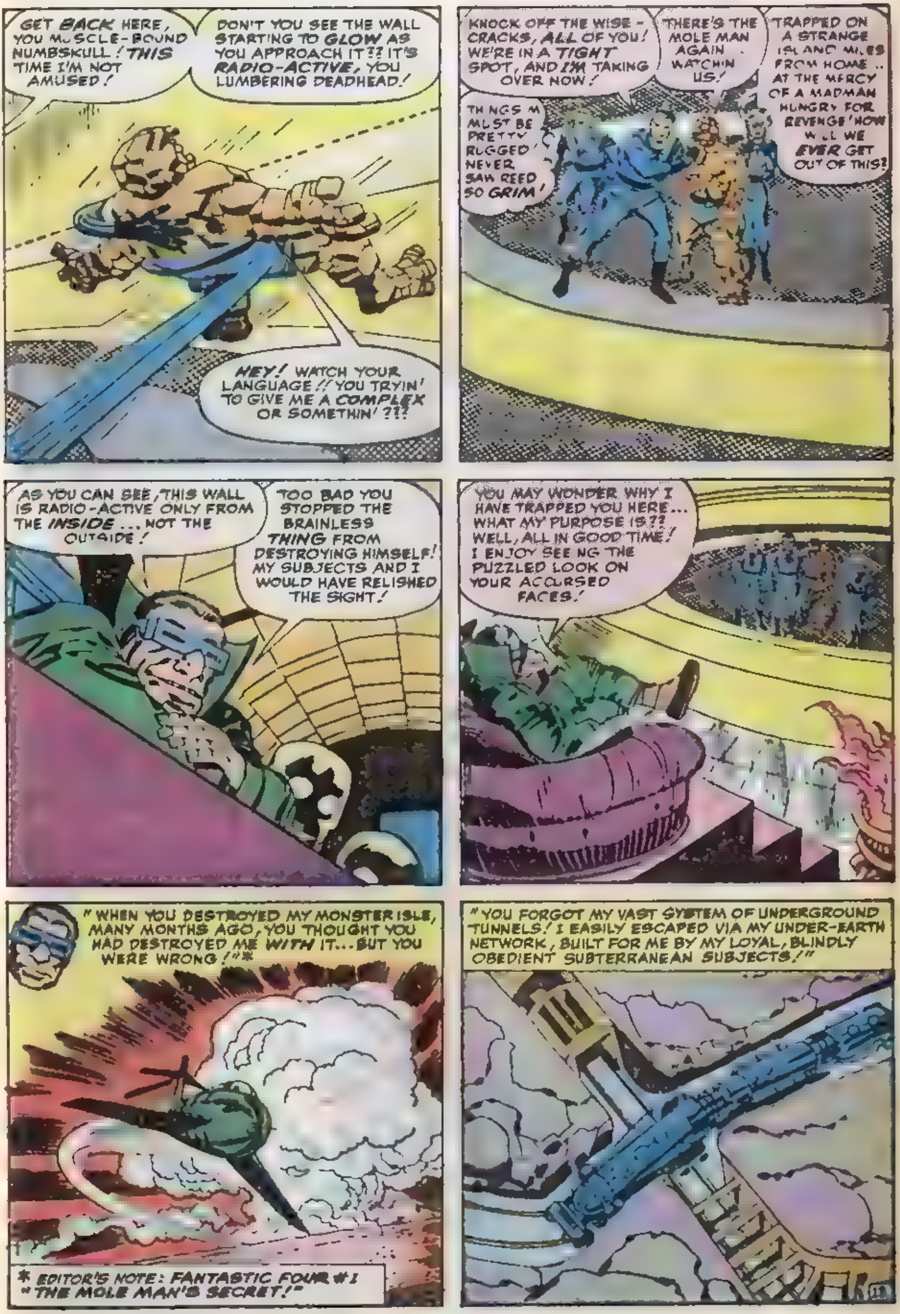
I enclose 10¢ additional. Please send me your 40 page catalog of over 500 Top Tricks and Novelties.



MY SUBTERRANEAN SUBJECTS WILL DO ALL THEY CAN TO MAKE YOU FEEL... WELCOME!
AFTER ALL, I WENT TO A LOT OF TROUBLE TO LURE YOU HERE... WHAT WITH THOSE COMPLAINTS THAT I ARRANGED, AND THE ISLAND-FOR-SALE AD I SENT YOU!
AND NOW, BY THE SLIGHTEST MOVE OF A LEVER, I SHALL MAKE SURE YOU NEVER ESCAPE ME AGAIN!
LOOK OUT!! WE'RE FALLING!
NO WONDER YOU'RE OUR LEADER! IT TAKES A REAL BIG BRAIN TO KNOW WHEN YOU'RE FALLIN', HUH??
BUT THE COLORFUL COMBO'S SPEED IS CHECKED BY A STRANGE COLUMN OF WARM AIR WHICH ACTS LIKE A BRAKE, SLOWING THEIR DESCENT! AND THEN, FINALLY, WHEN THEY REACH THE BOTTOM...
MY DEAR OL' AUNT PETUNIA ALWAYS TOLD ME I'D GET IN TROUBLE IF I WASN'T CAREFUL OF THE COMPANY I HUNG AROUND WITH!! I SHOULDA LISTENED TO HER!
WE'VE LANDED ON SOME SORT OF SOFT NETTING! GUESS HE WANTS US ALIVE FOR A WHILE LONGER!
WE'RE ONLY SAFE FOR THE MOMENT! THIS IS ALL PART OF SOME CAREFULLY WORKED OUT TRAP!
WONDER WHAT THE MOLE MAN'S AFTER?!
LOOK! THIS NETTING WE'RE ON IS SURROUNDED BY A LOW WALL! PERHAPS WE CAN ESCAPE BY CLIMBING OVER IT!
ESCAPE TO WHERE? THIS WHOLE ISLAND IS UNDER THE MOLE MAN'S CONTROL! OUR BEST BET IS TO WAIT UNTIL... BEN!! WHERE ARE YOU GOING??
WHERE DO YOU THINK? THIS IS ONE JAM YOU CAN'T TALK YOUR WAY OUT OF! I'M GONNA GET OVER THAT WALL AND FIND ME A FEW HEADS TO KNOCK TOGETHER!
12.



GET BACK HERE, YOU MUSCLE-BOUND NUMBSKULL! THIS TIME I'M NOT AMUSED!
DON'T YOU SEE THE WALL STARTING TO GLOW AS YOU APPROACH IT?? IT'S RADIO-ACTIVE, YOU LUMBERING DEADHEAD!
HEY! WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE!! YOU TRYIN' TO GIVE ME A COMPLEX OR SOMETHIN' ?!!
KNOCK OFF THE WISE-CRACKS, ALL OF YOU! WE'RE IN A TIGHT SPOT, AND I'M TAKING OVER NOW!
THERE'S THE MOLE MAN AGAIN . WATCHIN US!
TRAPPED ON A STRANGE ISLAND MILES FROM HOME .. AT THE MERCY OF A MADMAN HUNGRY FOR REVENGE! HOW WILL WE EVER GET OUT OF THIS!
THINGS MUST BE PRETTY RUGGED! NEVER SAW REED SO GRIM!
AS YOU CAN SEE, THIS WALL IS RADIO-ACTIVE ONLY FROM THE INSIDE ... NOT THE OUTSIDE!
TOO BAD YOU STOPPED THE BRAINLESS THING FROM DESTROYING HIMSELF! MY SUBJECTS AND I WOULD HAVE RELISHED THE SIGHT!
YOU MAY WONDER WHY I HAVE TRAPPED YOU HERE... WHAT MY PURPOSE IS?? WELL, ALL IN GOOD TIME! I ENJOY SEEING THE PUZZLED LOOK ON YOUR ACCURSED FACES!
"WHEN YOU DESTROYED MY MONSTER ISLE, MANY MONTHS AGO, YOU THOUGHT YOU HAD DESTROYED ME WITH IT...BUT YOU WERE WRONG!"*
* EDITOR'S NOTE: FANTASTIC FOUR #1 "THE MOLE MAN'S SECRET!"
"YOU FORGOT MY VAST SYSTEM OF UNDERGROUND TUNNELS! I EASILY ESCAPED VIA MY UNDER-EARTH NETWORK, BUILT FOR ME BY MY LOYAL, BLINDLY OBEDIENT SUBTERRANEAN SUBJECTS!"

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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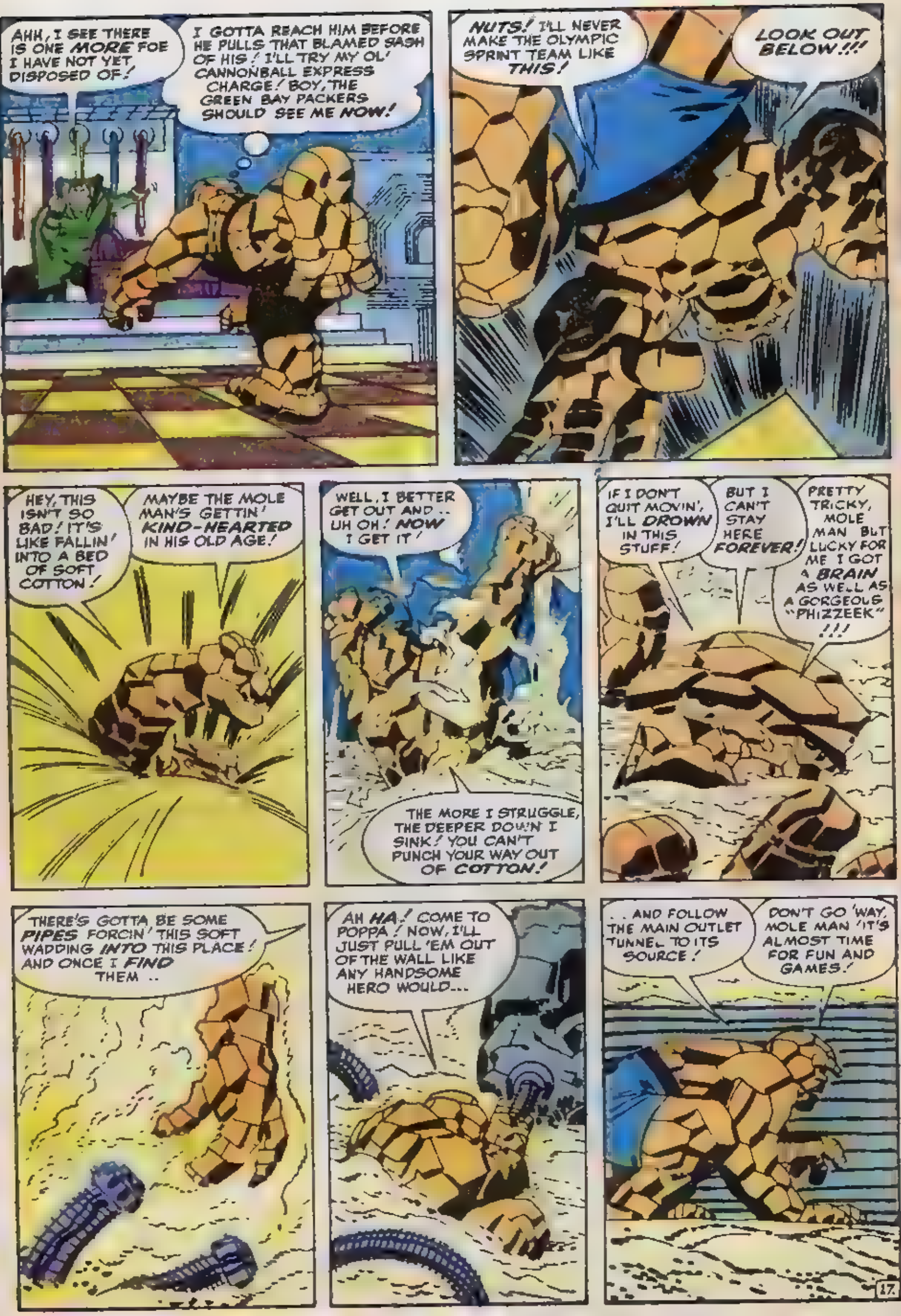
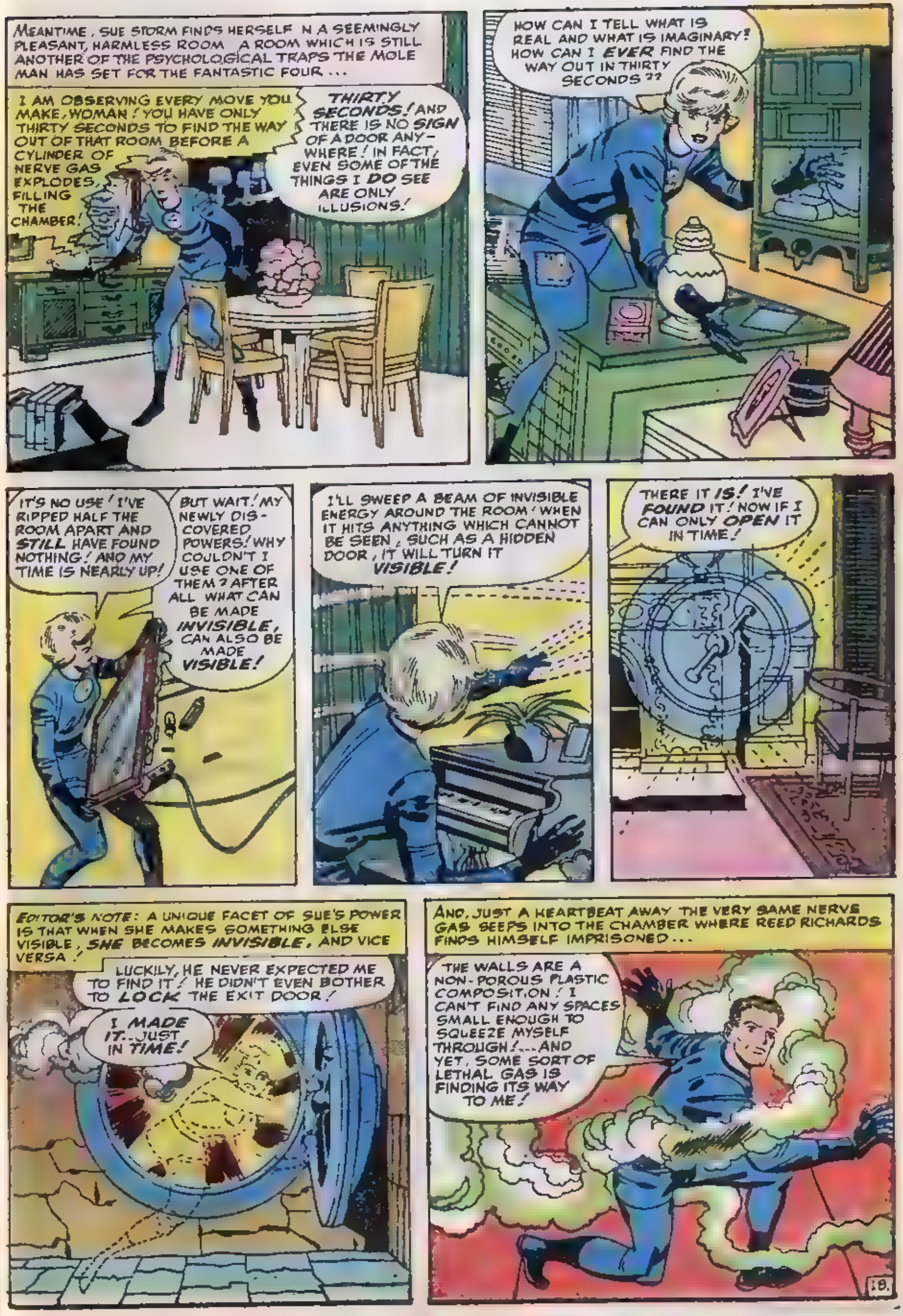
WHAT HAS HAPPENED? I-I CANNOT TOUCH THE BUTTON!! SOMETHING IS PREVENTING ME!
THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE!! THERE IS NOTHING THERE! I WILL NOT BE THWARTED NOW... I WILL NOT!
I MUST SMASH WHATEVER IT IS THAT SURROUNDS MY DEVICE! ALL MY MONTHS OF PREPARATION MUST NOT BE WASTED! NOTHING SHALL STOP THE MOLE MAN!!
HEY, SUSIE BABY! YOU MUSTA DONE THAT! YOU MUSTA TOSSED ONE OF THOSE INVISIBLE ENERGY WALLS AROUND THAT GIZMO!
YES, BUT WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING ELSE FAST! I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I CAN HOLD IT THERE AGAINST HIS ONSLAUGHT!
WE'VE NEVER TESTED THE FULL SCOPE OF YOUR POWER, HONEY! CAN YOU SWITCH THAT ENERGY WAVE AND QUICKLY PUT IT AROUND US??
BUT WHY, REED? WHAT GOOD'LL THAT DO?
YOU'LL FIND OUT, SHORTY! IF OL' BRAIN WAVE SAYS DO IT, DO IT!!
HERE GOES, REED! I HOPE THIS WILL BE WHAT YOU WANT!
IT HAS TO BE, SUE DEAR! IF IT ENCASES US COMPLETELY, WE'LL BE ABLE TO GET OVER THAT RADIO-ACTIVE WALL AND ATTACK THE MOLE MAN!
OH, NOW I DIG YA! THAT'S USIN' THE OL' NOODLE, BOSS MAN!
WE'RE COMPLETELY SHIELDED NOW! I-I HOPE I CAN MAINTAIN IT!
IF YOU CAN'T, YOU WON'T HAVE TIME TO APOLOGIZE, SIS!
IT'S NOW OR NEVER! LET'S GO!!
YAY BO! IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!

THE INSTANT THE WALL HAS BEEN SAFELY CLEARED, SUE DROPS THE INVISIBLE SHIELD AND THE FANTASTIC FOUR THUNDER TOWARDS THE RAGING MOLE MAN.'
CAREFUL, JOHNNY... HE'S TUGGING AT THAT LONG SASH... IT MUST CONTROL A DEFENSE DEVICE!
AW, HE DOESN'T SCARE ME, REED! HE'S LICKED AND HE KNOWS IT!
I'LL HOLD THESE KEWPIE DOLLS BACK, REED! YOU AND THE TORCH GRAB BIG MOUTH!
THINK SO, YOU YOUNG FOOL? JUST WATCH...
MY SASH WAS A SIGNAL... A SIGNAL TO OPEN MY DEFENSIVE FLOOR PANELS... SUCH AS THE ONE WHICH IS NOW SUCKING YOU DOWN TO THE BOTTOM WITH A POWERFUL VACUUM BLAST OF AIR!
FLAME CAN'T EXIST IN A VACUUM! IT'S GOING OUT!
HEY, REEDY BOY! DON'T JUST STAND THERE! STRETCH THOSE LONG PAWS OF YOURS... GRAB ME!
YOU'RE TOO LATE! THE PANEL SLAMMED SHUT AGAIN! J-JOHNNY'S TRAPPED!
I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED THERE WAS A REASON FOR THE PANEL DESIGN ON MOLE MAN'S FLOOR!
RUN, SUE!! TRY TO MAKE IT TO HIS THRONE! WE'RE SITTING DUCKS IF WE REMAIN HERE!
But, ALMOST BEFORE THE PROPHETIC WORDS ARE OUT OF REED'S MOUTH...
REED! I'M FALLING, TOO!
DON'T LOSE YOUR NERVE, KID! WHATEVER'S BELOW... WE'LL FIND A WAY TO BEAT IT!
HAH! YOUR WORDS ARE BRAVE ONES, REED RICHARDS! WHAT A PITY THEY ARE DESTINED TO BE PROVEN WRONG!



AHH, I SEE THERE IS ONE MORE FOE I HAVE NOT YET DISPOSED OF!
I GOTTA REACH HIM BEFORE HE PULLS THAT BLAMED SASH OF HIS! I'LL TRY MY OL' CANNONBALL EXPRESS CHARGE! BOY, THE GREEN BAY PACKERS SHOULD SEE ME NOW!
NUTS! I'LL NEVER MAKE THE OLYMPIC SPRINT TEAM LIKE THIS!
LOOK OUT BELOW!!!
HEY, THIS ISN'T SO BAD! IT'S LIKE FALLIN' INTO A BED OF SOFT COTTON!
MAYBE THE MOLE MAN'S GETTIN' KIND-HEARTED IN HIS OLD AGE!
WELL, I BETTER GET OUT AND.. UH OH! NOW I GET IT!
THE MORE I STRUGGLE, THE DEEPER DOWN I SINK! YOU CAN'T PUNCH YOUR WAY OUT OF COTTON!
IF I DON'T QUIT MOVIN', I'LL DROWN IN THIS STUFF!
BUT I CAN'T STAY HERE FOREVER!
PRETTY TRICKY, MOLE MAN BUT LUCKY FOR ME I GOT A BRAIN AS WELL AS A GORGEOUS "PHIZZEEK"!!!
THERE'S GOTTA BE SOME PIPES FORCIN' THIS SOFT WADDING INTO THIS PLACE! AND ONCE I FIND THEM ..
AH HA! COME TO POPPA! NOW, I'LL JUST PULL 'EM OUT OF THE WALL LIKE ANY HANDSOME HERO WOULD...
.. AND FOLLOW THE MAIN OUTLET TUNNEL TO ITS SOURCE!
DON'T GO 'WAY, MOLE MAN! IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR FUN AND GAMES!



MEANTIME, SUE STORM FINDS HERSELF IN A SEEMINGLY PLEASANT, HARMLESS ROOM... A ROOM WHICH IS STILL ANOTHER OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAPS THE MOLE MAN HAS SET FOR THE FANTASTIC FOUR...
I AM OBSERVING EVERY MOVE YOU MAKE, WOMAN! YOU HAVE ONLY THIRTY SECONDS TO FIND THE WAY OUT OF THAT ROOM BEFORE A CYLINDER OF NERVE GAS EXPLODES, FILLING THE CHAMBER!
THIRTY SECONDS! AND THERE IS NO SIGN OF A DOOR ANYWHERE! IN FACT, EVEN SOME OF THE THINGS I DO SEE ARE ONLY ILLUSIONS!
HOW CAN I TELL WHAT IS REAL AND WHAT IS IMAGINARY! HOW CAN I EVER FIND THE WAY OUT IN THIRTY SECONDS??
IT'S NO USE! I'VE RIPPED HALF THE ROOM APART AND STILL HAVE FOUND NOTHING! AND MY TIME IS NEARLY UP!
BUT WAIT! MY NEWLY DISCOVERED POWERS! WHY COULDN'T I USE ONE OF THEM? AFTER ALL WHAT CAN BE MADE INVISIBLE, CAN ALSO BE MADE VISIBLE!
I'LL SWEEP A BEAM OF INVISIBLE ENERGY AROUND THE ROOM! WHEN IT HITS ANYTHING WHICH CANNOT BE SEEN, SUCH AS A HIDDEN DOOR, IT WILL TURN IT VISIBLE!
THERE IT IS! I'VE FOUND IT! NOW IF I CAN ONLY OPEN IT IN TIME!
EDITOR'S NOTE: A UNIQUE FACET OF SUE'S POWER IS THAT WHEN SHE MAKES SOMETHING ELSE VISIBLE, SHE BECOMES INVISIBLE, AND VICE VERSA!
LUCKILY, HE NEVER EXPECTED ME TO FIND IT! HE DIDN'T EVEN BOTHER TO LOCK THE EXIT DOOR!
I MADE IT...JUST IN TIME!
AND, JUST A HEARTBEAT AWAY THE VERY SAME NERVE GAS SEEPS INTO THE CHAMBER WHERE REED RICHARDS FINDS HIMSELF IMPRISONED...
THE WALLS ARE A NON-POROUS PLASTIC COMPOSITION! I CAN'T FIND ANY SPACES SMALL ENOUGH TO SQUEEZE MYSELF THROUGH!...AND YET, SOME SORT OF LETHAL GAS IS FINDING ITS WAY TO ME!
18

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11. Tonight
12. Cupid
13. Come Into My Heart
14. We Got Love
15. Heartaches By The Number
16. In The Mood
17. So Many Ways
18. Unforgettable
19. Beyond The Sea
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22. What In The World's Come Over You
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24. Baby Workout
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26. Mr. Bass Man
27. Puff
28. Young Lovers
29. Don't Be Afraid Little Darlin'
30. Bless You
31. Who Put The Bomp
32. Take Good Care Of My Baby
33. The Mountain's High
34. My True Story
35. Without You
36. Harbor Lights
37. Wild One
38. Puppy Love
39. Mama
40. O Dio Mio
41. I Love The Way You Love
42. Tall Oak Tree
43. Burning Bridges
44. When You Wish Upon A Star
45. The Madison
46. The Continental Walk
47. A Little Bitty Tear
48. I Know
49. Norman
50. The Peppermint Twist
51. Dear Ivan
52. Good Timin'
53. Cradle Of Love
54. Let The Little Girl Dance
55. You Can Depend On Me
56. Some Kind Of Wonderful
57. Daddy's Home
58. The Wanderer
59. Mama Said
60. Runaround
61. Volare
62. All My Love
63. Dreamin'
64. Kiddio
65. Ya Ya
66. Yogi
67. You Talk Too Much
68. Georgia On My Mind
69. Blue Angel
70. Stay
71. Artificial Flowers
72. Poetry In Motion
73. It Might As Well Rain Until Sept.
74. Venus In Blue Jeans
75. Your Nose Is Gonna Grow
76. Hully Gully Baby
77. Patches
78. When My Little Girl Is Smiling
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83. Dear One
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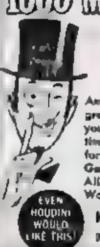

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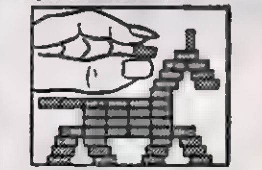

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NOW THERE'S NOTHING TO STOP ME FROM FLAMING ON AGAIN... BUT THIS TIME, IT'S FOR KEEPS!
I'LL BURN MY WAY OUT OF HERE IN NO TIME!
AT THAT SAME TIME THE MIGHTY THING FINDS HIS ESCAPE PATH BLOCKED BY HORDES OF DESPERATE SUBTERRANEANS...
LOOK, YOU JOKERS... I DON'T WANNA HURT YA BECAUSE I FIGURE YOU HAVEN'T GOT BRAINS ENOUGH TO KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOIN'!
BUT MAMMA GRIMM'S LITTLE BOY BENJAMIN AIN'T GONNA BE USED AS A PUNCHING BAG BY ANYBODY... NOT EVEN AN ADORABLE BUNCH OF SUBTERRANEANS!!
SO WATCH YOURSELVES, KIDDIES HERE'S WHERE I SHAKE YOU OFF AND I DON'T MEAN MAYBE!
SECONDS LATER, AS THE DEFEATED CREATURES GO FLYING IN ALL DIRECTIONS, A THUNDEROUS MASS OF MIGHTY MUSCLE HEADS FOR THE IMPLACABLE MOLE MAN!
SO YOU ESCAPED MY "COTTON ROOM", EH? WELL, MY FEROCIOUS FRIEND, YOU'VE HEARD THE EXPRESSION, "OUT OF THE FRYING PAN..."
"...INTO THE FIRE!" AND THAT'S WHERE YOU ARE NOW, YOU UNGAINLY FOOL! SEE HOW EASILY I CAN PLUNGE MY DOMAIN INTO DARKNESS!
HEY, I CAN'T SEE! WHERE THE DICKENS ARE YA?? OWW!!
YOU FORGOT THAT I CAN FUNCTION IN THE DARK DUE TO MY HIGHLY DEVELOPED RADAR SENSE!*
I'LL STILL GET YA! I'LL CHARGE TOWARD THE SOUND OF YOUR VOICE, AND THEN... HEY!?! WHAT THE..?!!
*RADAR SENSE: ALTHOUGH HIS VISION IS WEAK, THE MOLE MAN IS ABLE TO SENSE THINGS IN THE DARK AS FULLY EXPLAINED IN F.F. #1 (EDITOR)
BUT SUDDENLY...
LUCKY YOU HAVE A VOICE LIKE A FOG-HORN, BEN. I HEARD YOU JUST IN TIME!
WHEREVER YOU ARE, REACH OUT YOUR ARMS, GRAB MY HAND! HURRY, OLD FRIEND... DON'T MISS!
PARTNER, IF YOU PULL THIS OFF, I'LL TAKE EVERY ONE OF YOUR PINK LITTLE FINGERS AND KISS 'EM!
SECONDS LATER AS BASHFUL BENJAMIN CLIMBS UP A HASTILY IMPROVISED RAMP MADE OF REED RICHARDS' ARM...
OF COURSE YOU'RE NOT GONNA HOLD ME TO ANYTHING I PROMISED WHILE I WAS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF PURE PANIC, ARE YA?
JUST KEEP CLIMBING, PAL! YOU'RE NOT GETTING ANY LIGHTER, YOU KNOW!
10

BLAST THEM! RICHARDS SAVED THE LUMBERING THING!
BUT I'LL GET THEM YET! THE ADVANTAGE IS STILL MINE IN THE DARK!
TOO SLOW, LITTLE MAN! YOU FORGOT I CAN HEAR THE RUSTLE OF YOUR STICK WHEN YOU SWING IT!
WHOOSH!
THANKS, REEDY BOY! BUT I'M UP HERE NOW, AND I'LL HANDLE OL' MOLEY! I'LL KEEP SWINGIN' TILL I CONNECT WITH 'IM! HEY! WHERE IN SAM HILL DID HE GO!?
CAN'T TAKE A CHANCE OF THAT APE-LIKE BRUTE STRIKING ME! I'LL TRY ANOTHER PLAN!!
WHERE ARE YOU, BEN? OH THERE'S YOUR HAND!
C'MON DOWN, GOOD OL' BUDDY! THAT HOODED WEASEL IS HERE SOMEWHERE! IF WE COULD ONLY FIND THE LIGHT SWITCH!
HAH! BEFORE THEY FIND ANY SWITCHES, THEY'LL BOTH BE HELPLESS BENEATH A TEN-TON BOULDER!
HOLD IT! I HEAR SOMETHING FALLING!
AW' IT'S PROBABLY YOUR SOCKS! PULL 'EM UP, AND LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!
AT THAT EXACT MICROSECOND THE HUMAN TORCH BLAZES IN! SEEING THE DANGER IN THE LIGHT OF HIS FLAME, HE ACTS WITH THE SPEED OF THOUGHT...
BULL'S EYE! NOTHING CAN WITHSTAND THE FORCE OF MY LOW INTENSITY SUPER-NOVA BLAST!
DIDN'T EXPECT MY FLAME TO LIGHT THE JOINT UP, DID YOU?
HEY! DIDN'T ANYONE EVER TEACH YOU IT'S IMPOLITE TO LEAVE IN THE MIDDLE OF A CONVERSATION?
WITLESS YOUTH! LAUGH WHILE YOU MAY! SOON, YOUR HUMOR WILL CHANGE TO FEAR!!
THEY HAVE ESCAPED MY MANY TRAPS, BUT THE FINAL VICTORY SHALL STILL BE MINE! ONCE I REACH MY UNDERGROUND TUNNELS, NOTHING THAT LIVES CAN CATCH ME!
AND NOW NO POWER ON EARTH CAN REACH ME IN TIME TO PREVENT ME FROM SINKING THE SURFACE CITIES AND STARTING THE NEXT WORLD WAR!
11

REED! I'VE FOUND OUR U-CAR! IT'S JUST PAST THIS CAVERN!
QUICK! WE'VE GOT TO REACH IT AND LEAVE THE ISLE! THERE'S NOT A SECOND TO LOSE!
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE MOLE MAN? HE CAN STILL SINK ALL OUR CITIES
SOME LEADER YOU ARE! CHICKENIN' OUT AT THE LAST MINUTE! PHOOEY!
NO TIME TO EXPLAIN! DO AS I SAY! THAT'S AN ORDER!!
LOOK OUT! HERE COME THE SUBTERRANEANS AGAIN!
YOU THREE PLAY FOLLOW-THE-LEADER. I'LL HANDLE THESE CHARACTERS!
HEY, LOOKA ME! I'M A HUMAN BATTERING RAM! WONDER IF ED SULLIVAN COULD USE ME ON HIS SHOW!
ENOUGH, BEN! INTO THE U-CAR! NOW I SAY!
I'VE NEVER SEEN REED SO TENSE... SO HIGH STRUNG!
IT'S AS THOUGH HE KNOWS SOMETHING THAT HE HASN'T TOLD US! BUT WHAT CAN IT BE?!
ALL RIGHT... WE'RE ALL IN! NOW GIVE HER THE GUN! MOVE IT, BEN! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
AND, MANY LEAGUES BELOW, IN THE MAIN CHAMBER OF THE MOLE MAN'S SUBTERRANEAN KINGDOM...
THERE IS MY CONTROL DEVICE... WITH NOTHING TO STOP ME FROM ACTIVATING IT NOW!
GOODBYE, NEW YORK! GOODBYE, MOSCOW! WHEN NEXT I APPEAR ON THE SURFACE, ALL OF EARTH SHALL BE MINE!
... THE MOLE MAN ... THE ... BUTTON ... DREAMING AS HE DOES SO...
THAT MR. FANTASTIC HAD PREVIOSLY REARRANGED THE MAIN CIRCUIT WIRING SO THAT NOTHING SINKS BENEATH THE EARTH'S SURFACE EXCEPT THE MOLE MAN'S ISLE ITSELF, DESTROYING ALL OF HIS COMPLEX SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT IN ONE MAD INUNDATING TIDE OF WATER...
SO THAT'S WHY REEDY-BOY WANTED US TO SKEEDADDLE OFF THE ISLE!
OL' BOSS MAN FIXED IT SO THAT SHORTY BLEW HIS OWN LITTLE ISLAND RIGHT OFF THE MAP! HOW ABOUT THAT!
THAT'S IT FOR NOW, LI'L FRIEND! BUT, IF YOU CAN TEAR YOURSELF AWAY FROM THE HARVARD CLASSICS, TRY US AGAIN NEXT ISH... THERE'S ALWAYS THE SLIM CHANCE THAT YOU'LL ENJOY IT!
22.

Address YOUR letters to:
LEE and KIRBY
FANTASTIC FOUR
THIRD FLOOR
655 MADISON AVE.
NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

FANTASTIC 4 FAN PAGE

Dear Stan and Jack,

When the tumult and the shouting have died, one fact will remain; it has been a great season for comic fandom. I have read all the latest mags you have put out, and overall, I'd say "Excellent". Greatest of the great, of course, was the FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL. The story was, to say the least, (Sub-Mariner vs. the Human Race) everything you promised us, and more. This should go down in comic history as one of the greats of all time. Not only was the art superb, (as usual) but the story was one of the most gripping, dramatic epics I have ever read anywhere. Above all, this story illustrates the little-known fact that Sub-Mariner is not as bad as he's thought to be. He has honor, and he was merely fighting for what he believes in. Next—THE AVENGERS—great! That's one of the best magazines on the market today, and I hope it does as well as the FANTASTIC FOUR has done and will continue to do so. The battles between the Hulk and Iron Man were nothing short of fabulous. Finally—X-MEN! Overall, the mag was another great first. I really went for the story, and the artwork was good except for the inking, and that was only fair. On the individual X-Men, I flipped over the Angel. Keep up the good work. You make comic-reading a pleasure and an adventure.

Dave Cockrum
116 Abbott Hall
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, Ill.

We're also trying to make it a habit, Davey boy! Just wait till you see what we've got up our sleeves in the months ahead!

Dear Stan and Jack,

My comics collection numbers half a thousand. I'm not saying that because I like to brag, but I want you to know that when I give my opinion, I'm not speaking through my hat. I'll start off by saying that of the major publishing companies, the MARVEL GROUP is to me the most exciting. Writing and art blend together to form stories which are almost always very good (admit it—you sometimes make mistakes, too). Better still, you have brand new plots which are not rehashed and sold as new. After all that, I'll finally get down to what I intended to write about—THE AVENGERS. You introduce all those new heroes, but are you done? No! You bring out a new mag, THE AVENGERS, which, judging from the first issue, rivals only the FANTASTIC FOUR (my favorite). Other comics seem puny by comparison. It should be a smashing success—and Good Luck!!

John Lasruk
77 Kanarick Cres.
Downsview, Ontario
Canada

You know us, Johnny—we're always looking for little contests! (With no prizes, because we're cheapskates!) But, if you have half a thousand comics, we'd like to know if any collector has MORE?? How about it, fans? Who's got the MOST? Let's hear from you.

Dear Stan and Jack,

Each book with MARVEL at the top
Has got to be just great!
So promise you won't ever stop
'Cause you're the best—first rate!

You know I always get a rise
From Marvel's every mag,
So if you want the Pulitzer Prize
You've got it in the bag.

I think it must be really rough
To get the art you need,
But just one look at Ditko's stuff
And then I've gotta read!

Now let's peek at FANTASTIC FOUR—
Oh, man, there is a sight!
Makes competition pace the floor
Devoid of all their might.

And "Sue," the sun sinks in the west,
I'll always "Reed" your stuff,
It keeps my "Torch" a'burnin' best,
I "Thing" I've said enough!

Wayne Howard
3776 E. 154 St.
Cleveland 28, Ohio

***Because your verses are so neat
We dub thee Poet Laureate of Yancy Street!***

Dear Stan and Jack,

I just bought and read the latest issue of F.F. #18. It was quite good but it was in the same groove as many others. Many of your stories follow this form: a menace threatens the FF, they all fight, fight, fight, and fail! Then good ol' Reed Richards thinks, thinks, thinks, and thinks out a solution. I marvel at how his mind fits in that small little head. As the art goes in your mag—egad! Kirby's pencils are simply superb, but Ayers' inking does not look good on Kirby's drawings. I think you should get an inker that uses a streamlined style—thinner lines, more shading, etc. One last thing—the FF are NOT—I repeat—NOT super-heroes. They gained their powers by the cosmic rays; so they have Cosmic-powers, and so they are Cosmic-heroes. I hope from now on you will refer to them as such.

Jack Harris
206 Oakwod Rd. Fairfax
Wilmington 3, Dela.

Aw, Jackie, isn't there anything we do right? How about the paper we use? Isn't it nice the way all the pages are the same size?

Dear Stan and Jack,

Say, boys, why not put out a fantasy mag, THE WRITERS AND THE ARTISTS, and feature Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko, etc. actually taking part in adventure, super-hero, and mystery thrillers! Boy, that would *really* usher in the MARVEL AGE OF COMICS! What do you think? Try it, huh? Ask the readers what they think!

Bobby Rollins
P. O. Box 328
Vivian, La.

WHAT readers?? If we ever put OUR pans on the cover of any mags, we'd scare 'em all away! One of these days though, we WILL surprise you with pix of our staff—as soon as we can find a camera that'll snap 'em without cracking the lens!

Dear Stan and Jack,

What are you guys up there at MARVEL trying to do—run a fella into bankruptcy? The other day I went to the drugstore, intending to pick up a few comic books, among them of course the latest issue of FANTASTIC FOUR. So what happens? Before I'm done, I shell out $1.95 for comics—and, what's more amazing, all of it went for Marvel mags! I'm not one of those over-zealous souls who says that Marvel is the only company that doesn't insult a fan's intelligence and that therefore I buy nothing that doesn't have the Marvel seal—as you yourself doubtless know and (in fact) have said before that's a pretty provincial attitude. It just so happened that Marvel's the only company that had anything to offer lately! How was this money disbursed? Well, naturally I wanted the latest tales of Thor, Giant-Man, Human Torch and Iron Man—then I usually buy *two* copies of most comics. I even bought three copies of the FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL—two for myself and one for my girl friend's Washington University roommate, who read a recent issue I gave her,

(CONTINUED)

loved it, and requested more of same! At any rate, what I'm leading up to is this. While I'm not ready to concede that comicdom today is unequivocally entering into the MARVEL AGE OF COMICS, I will say that some of your comics (especially FANTASTIC FOUR, AVENGERS, X-MEN, SPIDER-MAN and your Annuals) are among the best ever published. The possibilities are seemingly as endless as your talent—and with that note of deserved praise I rest my case. Longwindedly as Mr. Fantastic—

Roy Thomas
307 Greensferry Road
Jackson, Mo.

So you're not ready to concede we're in the MARVEL AGE OF COMICS, eh, Roy? Hmmmph! You're probably still waiting for the recount in the Kennedy-Nixon election, too!

Dear Stan and Jack,

Lately, the big news in comic fandom is the coming of THE AVENGERS. Personally, I have been much more excited over the appearance of a team of brand new super-heroes called the X-MEN! Today, July 5, 1963, the newest magazine came on sale. Blared on the cover was "THE X-MEN, the strangest super-heroes of all! In the sensational FANTASTIC FOUR style!" Here, I disagree completely! THE X-MEN aren't anything like the rest of your Marvel Comics. They are completely different from the rest of your characters. They have an exciting new something, a certain twist... they're altogether different. Let's see what I mean: 1) They're all teen-agers, 2) They're all led by a man who takes no part in the action what so ever, 3) They act human, and I mean really human. All the rest of your characters are always fighting, and I suppose this is all right, but the X-Men have their differences and settle them like real human beings, 4) You have some unique characters, such as the Cyclops who is my favorite, and 5) You have revived one of the old super-heroes of the '40's, the Angel. The story on the whole wasn't too bad. The art, of course, could be recognized as that of the wonderful Jack Kirby. It had a different flair to it, which was probably noted because of the inking of old pro Paul Reinman. As it is, mostly you guys start out with something below par, and gradually become greater. This has been the case with almost all your comics with the exception of the INCREDIBLE HULK who started out with two great issues, and ended up a waste of paper. Whether your magazine will become as great as the FANTASTIC FOUR or the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN—only time will tell.

Stephen Erickson
11437 Ostrom Avenue
Granada Hills, Calif.

WE enjoyed your letter, Steve, but we hope the HULK doesn't see it! Our merry muscular monster gets SO emotional!

MARVEL MINIATURES!

(We haven't room for enough complete letters, but here are a few samplings that might interest you!)

"The only two good things in your mags are the artwork and the words"... Joseph Hyatt, Utica, N. Y. "The Thing and the Hulk ought to get in a couple of scuffles once in a while"... Larry Howard, Lubbock, Tex. "Stan, just tell Will Shakespeare to move over"... Bob Kennedy, Glendale, Mo. "In an adventure story like the F.F., a girl messes things up"... Ralph Perlovsky, Arlington, Mass. "If I ever miss one issue of SGT. FURY AND HIS HOWLING COMMANDOS, I'll be 'Fury'ous!"... Jeff Baker, Fort Worth, Tex. "Why no girl villains? Women are just as good (I mean bad) as men!"... Norma Ryan, Louisville, Ky. "I wish the Thing would show some self-restraint, which is admirable in any man"... Russell Paini, So. Penoh, Australia. "Not many of your fans can say they have a complete set of all Marvel comics—I have every single issue that you ever put out"... Kenneth Chance, Brooklyn, N. Y. "Please make sure the characters and villains you have now last for a while because I'm going broke buying all the new arrivals"... Todd Borden, Stanley, N.D. "Everytime I get bored, I just open one of your books and escape to a world of realistic fantasy"... Mitchell Gruskin, Brooklyn, N. Y. "The AVENGERS probably will be a success, which means that the F.F. may have to change their motto to the World's Second-Best Magazine"... Ken Tutton, Hyattsville, Md. "One of fandom's greats has voiced my thoughts to a 'T' when he said that in the future our children will seek out Marvel Comics as we now seek out mags from the 'Golden Age'"... Lee Whittlesey, Norman, Okla.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS SECTION:

As they say on TV, we've got NEWS for you!

- **First of all, SPIDER-MAN #8, on sale now, has a bonus story in which the masked teen-ager fights the Human Torch! It's an off-beat "Tribute To Teen-Agers" ish, and we hope you'll like it.**
- **You'll find bashful Benjamin Grimm featured with Johnny Storm in the current STRANGE TALES (#116), and guess who the villain is? That ol' debbil Puppet Master, that's who! Yes, he's still alive, and this story explains why and how!**
- **Mighty Thor fights a different type of foe in the new JRNY. INTO MYSTERY #99. In fact, the tale is so unique that it's presented in two parts! And, our new feature, "Tales of Asgard" has an epic battle between Odin and the Ice Giants!**
- **For a real surprise, the new Iron Man has an unexpected guest star foe in the person of the X-MEN'S "Angel"! You won't want to miss this unusual epic in TALES OF SUSPENSE #49, on sale today.**
- **And Giant-Man again tackles his most difficult foe as he meets the challenge of "The Human Top" in the current TALES TO ASTONISH #51! By the way, early reports indicate that you fans are delighted with the new Giant Man and the wonderful Wasp!**
- **NOTE: Lee Greathouse, of Jeffersontown, Ky., writes that "Thor is good, but as I believe in one God, all those assorted gods and dieties are hard to take." And so we want to stress that Thor is a LEGENDARY god, just as Apollo, Mars, Venus, and Pan, to name a few, are taken from ancient legends. We do not refer to them as gods in the religious sense, but rather in the mythological sense. Okay?**
- **Also, many readers have asked why we have so few artists drawing so many strips. Well, the reason is that here at Marvel we work as a small, closely-knit team. You'll notice that sometimes Jack Kirby will draw GIANT MAN, or sometimes DON HECK may draw him. Other times STEVE DITKO might ink Jack's drawings, or Don might ink Steve's, etc. In that way, we feel we inject new vitality into our features, while at the same time keeping a constant standard of quality by using the men whom we feel are the top talents in the business. We'd like to hear your opinions of our system—think it makes sense?**
- **We recently received a letter from Jerry Bails, one of fandom's most articulate critics. Jerry has high praise for the AVENGERS but considers the X-MEN a dud, and suggests we discontinue it! And so, right here and now, where hundreds of thousands of readers can watch us, we're going to go out on the usual limb... We confidently predict that within the short space of one year, the X-MEN will be one of our most successful mags, and that we will be publishing a letter from Jerry testifying to that fact! Any takers?**
- **And now, a final word about next month's FF: Ish #23 is certain to be one of the most widely discussed of all! You'll either love it or loathe it! It features FOUR different super-villains, pledged to the complete destruction of the fabulous FF! And, as if we have to tell you, there'll be a surprise or two awaiting you! As Sgt. Fury would say: "BE HERE! That's an ORDER!"**

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CLIMAX YOUR ACT BY PLACING A BEAUTIFUL GIRL IN A MAGIC "TRANCE" — THEN, CONTROLLING HER BODY, YOU SAY "LEVITATE" AND SHE FLOATS ON AIR!

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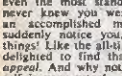

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BOYS! MEN!

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Yes! If the girls LAUGH at you now when you take off your shirt—they'll be breaking down the doors to get dates with you—once they've seen the rugged DYNAFLEX BODY I can give you! I'll build you a tough brutal massive body — shoulders clad with solid inches of he-man BRAWN. I'll give you bulging biceps, trip-hammer fists, power-packed legs, and a chest that will have you popping the buttons off your shirt with pride! (—says MIKE MARVEL, "Builder of Champion Bodies")

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Whether you're thin and scrawny, or sagging with unsightly fat—my secret DYNAFLEX method will cram pep, vigor and red-blooded vitality into your puny, exhausted body. Once DYNAFLEX makes you a two-fisted dynamo of manly beauty, rippling with power, glowing with magnetic sex-appeal—you'll be bursting with get-up-and-go. Man, you'll be really ALIVE—tingling with zest and rip-roaring energy—for the first time in years!

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E. G., Detroit, Mich.

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ARE YOU ASHAMED OF YOUR BODY NOW?

Pal—do YOURSELF a favor! Take a good long look in a mirror. Do you see a puny, starved body—scrawny arms—bony shoulders—a flabby stomach and skinny legs? Do girls laugh and fellows grin when you take off your shirt?

BELIEVE IT OR NOT—I can add solid pounds of rippling, steely he-man MEAT to your build. I can take those skeleton arms and PACK EVERY INCH with explosive virile MAN-MUSCLE. I can take that caved-in chest and build on six rugged inches of strong sleek MAN-SIZED BRAWN. I can clothe your skinny frame with GIANT RIPPLING DYNAFLEX MUSCLES that will have the girls gasping with awe and admiration! And with NO tiring exercise, NO high-priced bar-bells or gym equipment!

Or is your problem a body sagging with soft rolls of unhealthy, unhandsome FAT? Puny muscles — sagging stomach — bloated face — arms heavy with layers of BLUBBER? Are you ASHAMED to go to the beach and let them see your "FAT-MAN PHYSIQUE"?

If so, wake up fella! THIS IS IT! I will peel off that fat and give you a lean virile DYNAFLEX BODY, armored with a sheath of hard tough handsome muscle. I can build you into a healthy, streamlined HERCULES—bursting with dynamic manly strength. I'll give you a taut rock-hard midsection—legs muscled like coiled steel springs. I can pack solid DYNAMITE into your fists and give you a rugged handsome build brim-full of the magnetic SUPER-BODY SEX-APPEAL girls are hungry for. And with NO starvation diets—NO fatiguing calisthenics—NO expensive health-foods!

HOW DYNAFLEX BUILDS BEAUTIFUL BODIES

DYNAFLEX is the modern miracle of body-building. It takes no tiresome exercises, "crash" diets, protein foods, and no weights or bar-bells. DYNAFLEX is the amazing discovery of a West German Doctor whose research into the Science of Strength found a thrilling new way to build GIANT BRAWNY MUSCLES in ten minutes a day. With DYNAFLEX you "flex" each muscle once—in a certain way—that is more effective than if you exercised that muscle 20, 30, even 100 times the old-fashioned way. With DYNAFLEX you get bigger results in ten minutes than after hours of grunting and groaning, hefting heavy weights. DYNAFLEX coaxes each muscle in your body to bring out its round, steely fullness and satiny symmetry. DYNAFLEX packs that muscle with glowing vibrant, new strength and energy—FAST. In ten minutes a day I can cover your bony frame with healthy rippling muscle—give you a deep, powerful chest—solid shoulders and iron wrists—tough, slim midsection—and trim, steel-spring legs—simply thru "DYNAFLEXING" each muscle once a day! There's nothing wrong with the bar-bell and weight-lifting method . . . but why bother? Why waste time and money, why sweat and strain your way to a streamlined symmetrical SAMSON-STRONG BODY—when you can do it better—bigger—faster—easier with the DYNAFLEX SECRET?

STRONG-MAN SEX-APPEAL ATTRACTS GIRLS

Be honest. Down deep you KNOW you envy the boy with the virile, magnificent build. Every man and boy secretly desires a broad brawny back, a solid man-muscled chest, handsome he-man shoulders, arms rippling with tough, steely sinews, a narrow waist, slim hips and springy, power-packed legs. Girls go for a fellow with TWO-FISTED BIG MUSCLE SEX-APPEAL . . . and they only laugh at skinny guys or "fatso's".

Let me give you a glowing new body, brimming over with energy and irresistible inches of solid muscle on your chest—he-man appeal. I can build three inches of beef and brawn on your shoulders. I will mold you a handsome super-body of terrific strength, give you a crushing grip, legs crammed with steel springs. A lean taut rock-solid punch-proof midsection. Pack your body with energy and thrilling stamina that will have girls falling at your feet.

GIVE ME TEN MINUTES A DAY —THAT'S ALL!

After DYNAFLEX, you'll be able to roll up your sleeves and take off your shirt and, for the first time in your life, you'll be PROUD of your manly build. Yes, pal, say goodbye to your weak, flabby frame—get ready for adventure and romance with a solid physique that glows and vibrates with virile he-man appeal. You'll be really proud to have people see your MAGNIFICENT HE-MAN-MUSCLES at the beach or gym. And, when the fellows stare with envy and jealousy—when the girls crowd around to squeeze your iron biceps or touch your bulging brawny chest—when they ask in amazement HOW you did it—tell them about the Magic Secret of DYNAFLEX!

Your Pal,
MIKE MARVEL
"Builder of Champion Bodies"

YOU PAY ONLY 1.98 COMPLETE NOTHING ELSE TO BUY

Mike Marvel System, DEPT. 329, 285 Market St., Newark, N.J.

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Fellows! Mail the coupon now, and receive Mike Marvel's FREE GIFT to you, this exciting and informative book. Discover a secret method for developing a new, almost MAGNETIC way of attracting the girls. At parties, dances, at the beach—you will have the girls clustering around you breathlessly, while the guys watch enviously. "What does HE have that WE don't?" they will say. The answer is in this exciting new book, your GIFT from Mike Marvel. Fill out and mail the coupon NOW!

Outside USA: Send International Money Order or cash. Great Britain: $1.98 is about 15 shillings. For air mail delivery, send 1 pound.

Check as many of the boxes you want HERE — Complete System $1.98.

- ☐ Lose fat, be trim and solid
- ☐ Build deep brawny chest, bulging with vigorous strength
- ☐ Lose fat, be trim, strong, handsome
- ☐ Mold mighty back, broad beefy shoulders
- ☐ Build muscle on skinny wrists and arms
- ☐ Develop crushing grip, two-fisted punch-power

MIKE MARVEL System, Dept. 329
285 Market St.,
Newark, N.J.

Okay, Mike! Here's $1.98. Send me your COMPLETE (nothing else to buy later) body-building course. I want to use your new secret of DYNAFLEX to win a HERCULES HE-MAN BODY in just ten minutes a day. Rush my copies of the DYNAFLEX SYSTEM and my free gift book "Secrets of Attracting Girls" on your money-back guarantee, in plain wrapper. If I don't develop a splendid physique and become more popular with girls you will refund my money in full.

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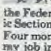

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